

Content Standards Informer

Curriculum and Instruction Unit

March 2010



In This Issue

Dr. Beverly Chin, Professor of English, University of Montana, has recently released publication

Common Core Standards

Gifted Education Leadership Institute

AP Test Fee Waiver Grant Awarded

Dr. Beverly Chin, Professor of English, University of Montana, has recently released the publication "Teaching Meaningful Revision: Developing and Deepening Students' Writing." The publication highlights the revision step of the writing process. Discussed is the need for teachers to establish an environment in their classroom that allows students to feel safe to talk about and critique their own writing and their peer's writing. There are examples provided that detail what revision looks like in practice. Model revision questions are included that will assist teachers as they implement purposeful revision conversations within their classrooms.

I encourage you to read the publication in its entirety: http://www.sadlier-oxford.com/prof_development/peerrewchin.cfm

The Office of Public Instruction has completed a review of the recent draft of the K-12 College and Career-Ready Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening and Language. Appreciation and thank yous go to the great team of educators: Jerrie Boksich, Sue Brown, Beverly Chin, Lisa Eckhart, Sheila Hall, Michelle Johnson, Michele Paine and Kathy Pfaffinger. This dedicated team of excellent educators continues to assist the OPI with the review process.

Please visit the OPI Web site for information about the national standards initiative and to view Montana's comments.

http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/Index.html?gpm=1_7.

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On January 14 and 15th 50 Montana educators convened in the Capitol building in Helena for the Office of Public Instruction's first Gifted Education Leadership Institute. Together, educators, gifted and talented coordinators, and principals explored shared beliefs regarding talent development, read and discussed best practices for advanced learners, and developed an awareness of how Montana's Content and Performance Standards can be used to meet the needs of gifted learners. Sharing expertise and experience, participants collaborated to create position statements (i.e., identification, programming options, acceleration, etc.) that can be used to influence the writing of future policy in gifted education for the state of Montana.

Montana has just received the award notice for a \$25,000 grant to help more low-income students pay the fees to earn college credits by taking Advanced Placement tests. Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau says the grant will help economically disadvantaged students in Montana reach their academic potential. Students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches are eligible. Advanced Placement courses and tests prepare students for college success and can help offset college costs. A record 16.6 percent of Montana high school seniors took college-level AP classes in 2009, an increase from 13.1 percent five years ago.

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Next Generation of National Science Standards

Science Inquiry Professional Development Academy

A national effort is getting underway to craft a set of “next generation” science standards for elementary and secondary education. Currently there are two documents that have significantly impacted state standards in science over the past 17 years. In 1993, the Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Project 2061 published “Benchmarks for Science Literacy” and in 1996, the National Research Council (NRC) issued a set of national science education standards. The groups working on this new effort are the NRC, National Science Teachers Association, AAAS, and Achieve, Inc. The purpose of developing a next generation of standards is threefold:

- In the past 15 years much has changed, not only in science itself, but in understanding how students learn science.
- The current documents have faced criticism that they contain too many learning objectives.
- The call for common academic standards has gained significant support in recent months and is beginning to change the landscape at the national level.

For more information about this current effort:

- National Science Teachers Association Report – “A Message from the Executive Director,” Francis Eberle;
- Education Week: “Work Begins on ‘Next Generation’ of Science Standards” by Erik Robelen; and
- National Academies Board on Science Education - Conceptual Framework for New Science Education Standards.

Science Inquiry Professional Development Academy

For the first time, the Montana Science Teachers Association (MSTA) will hold a Science Inquiry Professional Development Academy at the Montana Learning Center. Through the efforts of Beth Thomas (MSTA and Montana Learning Center Board member) grade 5 - 8 teachers will learn to create a classroom culture that supports inquiry. Scientific topics will be explored as the inquiry approach to learning is modeled. The academy will be held July 12-15, 2010, at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake. Go to <http://www.montanalearning.org/web/SIPDA.html> for further information including reservation details.

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Technology Performance Rubrics

A work team of Montana educators met in February to continue work on the rubrics. The team will meet again in March to complete the rubrics. The rubrics describe the Novice, Nearing Proficiency, Proficient and Advanced Learners performance on the Essential Learning Expectations. Upon completion, they will be posted on the OPI Web page and announced in the Content Standard Informer.

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Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

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Information Literacy/Library Media Rubrics

A work team of Montana educators met in February to complete work on the rubrics. The rubrics describe the Novice, Nearing Proficiency, Proficient and Advanced Learners performance on the Essential Learning Expectations. Stay tuned to the OPI Web page and the Content Standards Informer for information on their posting.

The Montana Library Association annual conference will be held in Bozeman, April 7-10. Please visit www.mtlib.org for conference information and registration. Colet will be presenting a preconference session on School Libraries for 21st Century Learning on Wednesday, April 7.

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National Common
Core Standards

World Math Day

Best Evidence
Encyclopedia

MCTM Algebra
Academy

Your feedback is important! The Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association (NGA) will release the K-12 Common Core State Standards publicly the second week of March. The CCSSO and NGA are looking for public comment on the standards in this release. Please take time to familiarize yourself with this important initiative. Information including the overview, College and Career Ready Standards draft, previous drafts of the K-12 Common Core Standards, as well as Montana response to each draft can be found at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/Index.html#gpm1_7. Links to the CCSSI Feedback Survey can be found on the OPI web site or <http://corestandards.org/>. Maurice Burke, Jim Hirstein, David Erickson, Cliff Bara, Terri Dahl, Rodd Zeiler, Andrea Johnson, and Melissa Romano have met to give their time and effort to review and respond to the drafts; thank you.

World Math Day Makes Math Count on March 3, 2010. Starting today, Students, teachers, and parents are encouraged to help beat last year's record by logging on to www.worldmathday.com to register for World Math Day. The online competition is free of charge.

MCTM Middle School Academy "Implementing the Algebra Standard 5 - 9" Teachers are encouraged to participate as individuals but math and science teachers attending from the same school/district will find much to discuss and share. For MCTM academy details, go to www.montanamath.org.

Short but concise articles on Math instruction, learning, research, and effective programs from Johns Hopkins University, Center for Research and Reform in Education and Institute for Effective Education can be found on the Best Evidence Encyclopedia web site. www.bestevidence.org/better

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